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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Apparatus for producing asphaltene pellets comprising:  
a) flow means that supplies hot asphaltene through a conduit to its outlet; and  
b) pellet producing medium that breaks up the liquid stream of said hot asphaltene exiting the outlet of said conduit and produces pellets of asphaltene.

2. Apparatus according to claim 1 including:  
a) a reservoir or container that collects said pellets of asphaltene together with some fluid producing a slurry; and  
b) transporting means that transports said slurry to the required location.

*2* 3. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said fluid is liquid water.

*abc* 4. Apparatus according to claim 3 wherein said transporting means includes a conduit that supplies the slurry to the required location.

*4* 5. Apparatus according to claim 3 including a pump for pumping the slurry to said location.

*5* 6. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said pellet producing medium is liquid water.

*6* 7. A method for producing asphaltene/pellets comprising the steps of:

a) supplying hot asphaltene through a conduit to its outlet; and  
b) breaking up the liquid stream of said hot asphaltene exiting the outlet of said conduit using a pellet producing medium to produce pellets of asphaltene.

8. A method according to claim 7 further comprising the steps of:

- a) collecting said pellets of asphaltene in a reservoir together with some fluid producing a slurry; and
- b) transporting said slurry to a required location.

*sub B* 9. A method according to claim 8 wherein the step of collecting said pellets of asphaltene in a reservoir together with some fluid producing a slurry is carried out by collecting said pellets of asphaltene in a reservoir together with some liquid water producing a heavy hydrocarbon or asphaltene - water slurry.

10. A method according to claim 7 wherein said step of breaking up the liquid stream of said hot asphaltene flowing out of the outlet of said conduit using a pellet producing medium so that pellets of asphaltene are produced is carried out by spraying a fluid so that the fluid contacts the asphaltene exiting said outlet of the conduit and pellets of asphaltene are produced.

*sub C 3/10* 11. A method according to claim 9 wherein the step of transporting said slurry to a required location is carried out by supplying said slurry via a conduit to a required location.

*sub C 3/10* 12. A method according to claim 11 including pumping the slurry to said location.

*sub C 3/10* 13. A method according to claim 10 wherein the step of spraying a fluid so that the fluid contacts the asphaltene exiting said outlet of the conduit and pellets of asphaltene are produced is carried out by spraying liquid water.

14. A method according to claim 8 including grinding said asphaltene pellets and transporting the grinded asphaltene pellets to a location.